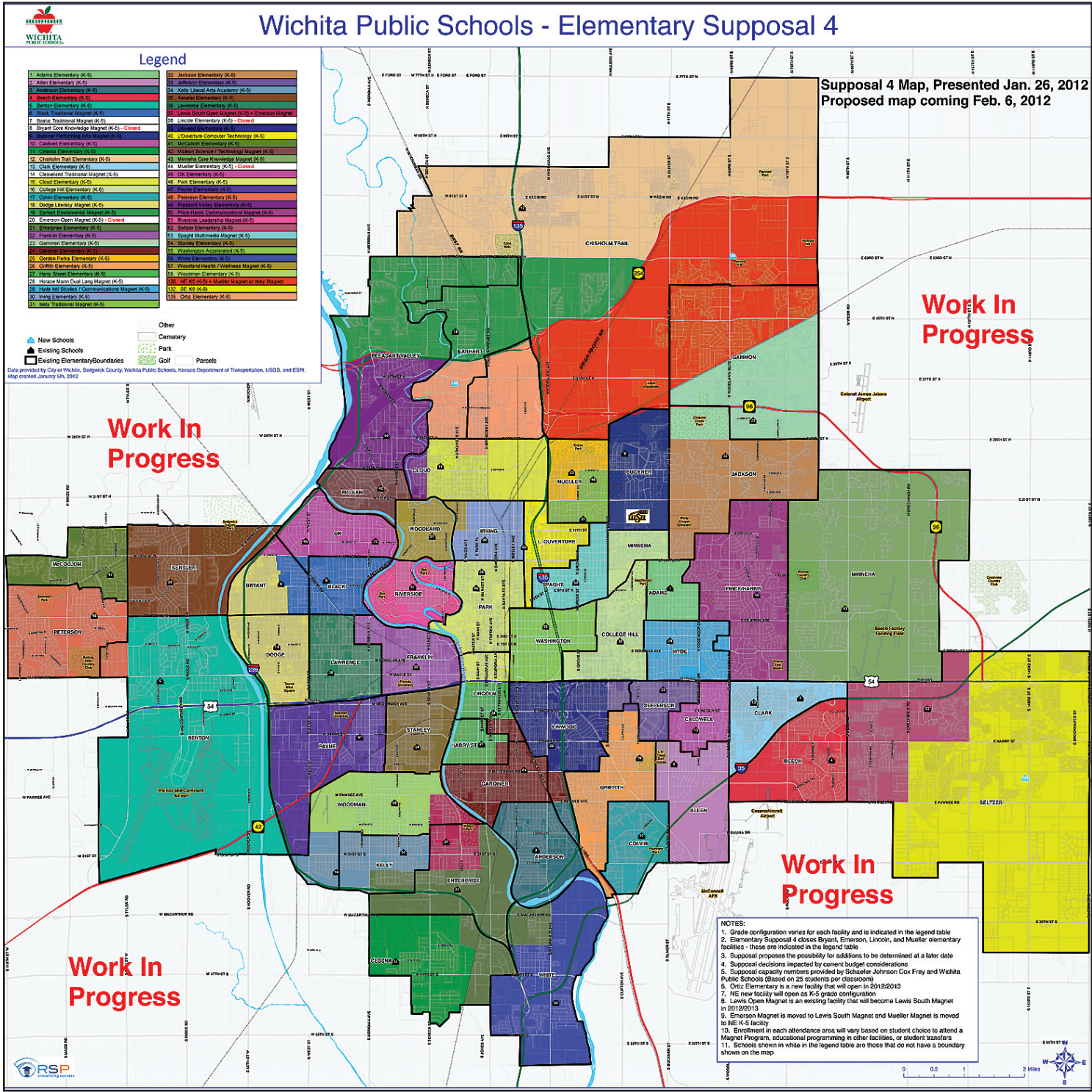


# Time for a vote



# Residents fight to the end on school boundary issue

By Matt Heilman

Residents and city leaders in Bel Aire and Kechi had a chance to speak their piece. Now all they can do is hope for the best.

At its March 5 meeting at Wichita North High School, the board planned to take a final vote on next year's school boundary map.

Under the last "supposal" for next year's Wichita school district boundaries, the new K-8 school in Bel Aire at 53rd and Woodlawn will only include students in kindergarten through fifth grade and the high school near 53rd and Rock Road will serve as the new home for Wichita's Northeast Magnet High School.

For now, Bel Aire and Kechi public school students in sixth through eighth grades will continue to attend Stucky Middle School, and high school students will stay at Wichita Heights.

The high school supposal has especially frustrated parents in Bel Aire and Kechi because they expected a comprehensive, neighborhood school that would ease some overcrowding at Heights.

Northeast Magnet is a pure magnet school, which draws students from across the district who have to apply to attend the school.

This means that there could be several high school students living near the new high school who won't be able to go there, at least not next year.

On the surface, the high school supposal doesn't make much sense to some residents. But state budget cuts to education have put the Wichita school board in an unfavorable position.

At a Jan. 30 Bel Aire Chamber of Commerce meeting, USD 259 Superintendent John Allison discussed several challenges the district faces and empha-

sized that public input is important, even though several parents are going to be frustrated with the final boundary plan.

When the \$370 million bond issue was passed in November of 2008, the plan was to open five new schools in the district to their full capacity.

However, the state budget cuts have derailed some of the planning.

"With a \$54 million swing from where we thought we'd be, we can't march forward like we planned," Allison said.

He said most of the growth in the Wichita area is in the urban core and not as much in the "outlying areas" like Bel Aire and Kechi. This is due in large part to a struggling economy that has damaged the housing market.

Allison said 72 percent of students in the Wichita school district live in poverty. But even though the bulk of the population is in the less affluent "urban core," input from Bel Aire and Kechi residents haven't fallen on deaf ears. Still, some parents may feel like the school district doesn't care.

USD 259 marketing and communications director Wendy Johnson joined Allison at the Jan. 30 Bel Aire chamber meeting. She explained that the district would owe the federal government between \$30 million and \$32 million if it decided to delay opening the new high school in Bel Aire and mothball it for a year.

"We're almost obligated to open it," she said.

Opening the new high school as a pure magnet is a cost-saving measure, cheaper than opening a traditional high school with more students and athletic facilities, Johnson said. The current plan to close four elementary schools, shifting those costs, and moving Northeast Magnet to Bel Aire will allow the district to avoid adding about \$24 million in new costs, the school board said.

Before March 5, area residents pushed for the board to approve one of two options that could at least get a handful of public school students into the new high school. The options were first discussed at the Wichita school board's Feb. 13 meeting.

The first option is to reserve one fourth of the incoming freshmen class at the new school for students living in the Heights boundary. The second option is to reserve half of the incoming freshman class for students in the Heights boundary.

Although not ideal, residents seemed to agree that the options at least recognize the intent of building the school, which was to alleviate some overcrowding concerns at Heights.

"There wasn't an escape clause when I voted on the bond issue," Bel Aire resident Misty Bruckner said.

In the second of three public input meetings in Bel Aire Jan. 28, between 40 and 50 residents, parents and city leaders discussed the boundary redrawing process with Wichita school board member Lynn Rogers, who represents USD 259 students in Bel Aire.

Rogers, in his 11th year on the school board, said redrawing school boundaries in the face of budget cuts from the state has been "about the most difficult process he's been through on the board."

Rogers fielded several questions as well as suggestions from Bel Aire parents and other residents. The group wanted to know if the board had explored other cost-cutting measures before deciding to open its new schools at limited capacities and they wondered why overcrowding concerns weren't being resolved, among several discussion items.

Rogers said the Wichita school district hasn't misspent its money and pointed

See SCHOOLS, Page 4

# Industrial park plan tops city's agenda

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire has about 800 acres of potential that is someday expected to bring prosperity to the city. To guide the city on marketing the industrial park land, which runs along 53rd North between Webb and Greenwich Roads, Bel Aire has selected a consulting team.

At its Feb. 21 meeting, the Bel Aire council heard from selected consultants, Jeff Best, a project manager for Law Kingdon with expertise in landscape architecture, and Jeff Lackey, an engineer with Kansas City-based TranSystems.

Before they were hired for the industrial park marketing project, the pair addressed the council in October to discuss the steps toward effectively marketing the industrial park to turn the bare land into development.

Lackey said the plan would begin in two phases. The first phase involves looking at the assets that are available on the property, including the infrastructure and how the land is zoned.

A key piece of the industrial park that has sparked a lot of attention is an idea to run a Union Pacific rail line through the property. Lackey has previous experience working with Union Pacific and he said representatives of the railroad see Bel Aire's land as "a good fit" for expanding its business in the Wichita area.

After the assets are identified, Best and Lackey said the next phase is a market analysis where they'd take a

See PARK, Page 6

# Residential developers scale back plans in city

By Matt Heilman

While progress on the development front hasn't halted in Bel Aire, a couple of planned projects are being scaled back in the face of the challenging economy.

At its Feb. 7 meeting, the Bel Aire City Council approved a revised paving petition for the Rock Spring development, just south of 53rd Street near Bel Aire's new high school just off 53rd and Rock Road, and a revised contract for planned development in Central Park.

Last year, developer Gene Vitarelli proposed a 67-lot phase of duplexes and single-family homes in Rock Spring in the \$130,000 to \$150,000 range.

The needed infrastructure was to include more than \$400,000 worth of paving. The revised paving petition approved Feb. 7 takes into account a change of plans for Vitarelli. While there is still optimism for Rock Spring's success, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said Vitarelli has decided to only develop 30 lots as part of Rock Spring's initial phase, waiting to sell some property before he moves forward with the rest of the development.

Scaling back the initial commitment to Rock Spring means that there will be less initial paving work needed, which is why the revised paving petition was reviewed by the council and unanimously approved.

"(Vitarelli) has now realized that 67 lots might be more than he should take on with the economy," Lasher said.

Toward the end of the Feb. 7 meeting, the council held a 20-minute executive session to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege. No binding action was taken in the closed session, but before the council adjourned, it approved a revised purchase agreement with Premier Holdings LLC.

Last month, the Wichita-based developer proposed town homes and patio homes for 16 lots in the Central Park 4th Addition, between City Hall and the Catholic Care Center.

On Feb. 7, the council approved Premier's plans to scale back the initial commitment to four lots. Lasher said the group decided to scale back because special assessments for each lot will run about \$40,000.



Cities must now live with decision on boundaries

It’s frustrating and it doesn’t seem right. But at the end of the day, there’s not much the USD 259 school board could have done. Education funding was cut at the state level, leaving the district with about \$54 million less to work with than it anticipated. The cuts mean the opening of new schools that were built as part of a \$370 million bond issue won’t be able to do so as planned. At least for next year, Bel Aire is left with a pure magnet high school and a K-8 that will only include kindergartners through fifth-graders.

District officials have taken their lumps. Some of the criticism has been deserved. While we understand the bottom line is crucial, at times it seemed like the school board had already made up its mind and suggestions from parents and residents were only heard as a courtesy. We applaud board member Lynn Rogers for attending two public input meetings in Bel Aire and helping those in attendance better understand the process of re-drawing district boundaries. We also applaud city leaders and residents in Kechi and Bel Aire for making themselves heard and intelligently sharing recommendations and concerns with the school board and Superintendent John Allison.

There is hope that Bel Aire’s new schools can someday operate as intended. For now, all we can do is make the best of a tough situation.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

The Bel Aire Breeze

Published monthly by Strunk Publishing LLC at P.O. Box 120, Valley Center, Kan. 67147. Publisher: Chris Strunk. Telephone: 316-755-0821. Fax: 316-755-0644. E-mail: [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com). The office is located at 210 W. Main, Valley Center, Kan.

Players seem to be getting younger

On Feb. 13, I saw the Kansas State Wildcats fall just short in an upset bid of the Kansas Jayhawks in Manhattan’s raucous Bramlage Coliseum. The game was sloppy, but didn’t lack in the entertainment department. In the excitement that surrounds college basketball this time of year, I have but one complaint: the game is starting to make me feel old. Every player who stepped on the court for the Sunflower Showdown was at least three years younger than me. I’m a full decade older than some blue chip prospects that are already soaring over rims in high school gyms across the country and will be displaying their talents in sold-out arenas in the next few years. And in less than a month, I’ll have another birthday, further distancing myself from some up-and-coming prospects



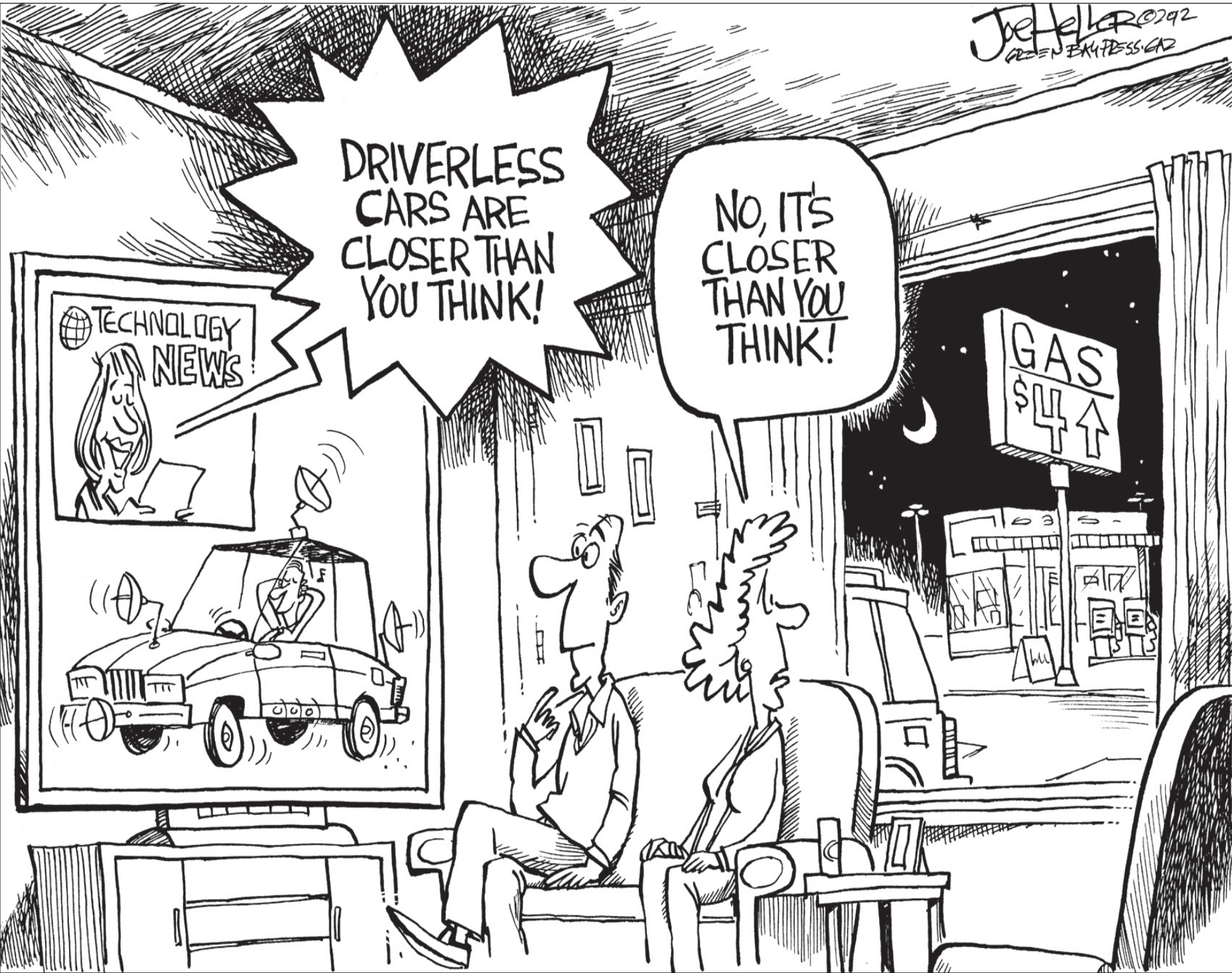
Heil on life  
By Matt Heilman

that will someday become household names. Even in the NBA, there are several All-Star-caliber players who are a couple of years younger than me, but my loyalties lie with the college game where this year, the landscape is dominated by players who were born in the 1990s. Yes, the 1990s, a decade I remember in its entirety from the rise of MC Hammer to the eve of Y2K.

This year’s freshman class, which includes Kentucky’s stable of All-American-caliber talent led by shot-block extraordinaire Anthony Davis and Duke’s cold-blooded North Carolina assassin Austin Rivers, was born when I was in kindergarten. As I’m enjoying the ride, this is hard to digest. When I watch some of these games, I just have to shake my head with how fast time goes by. My high school graduation seems like seven days ago instead of nearly seven years ago. When I started college classes at Wichita State, most of today’s college players and even a few pros were still in middle school. Before this year, I’d never taken the time to think about this stuff. In my mind’s eye, these athletes were still in my age group or older.

But seeing birth dates accompany player bios and looking ahead to my next turn to blow out the candles, reality has hit me like a ton of bricks this year. I can’t imagine trying to handle the pressure of consistently performing at a high level with so much at stake. I couldn’t do it now and I definitely wouldn’t have been able to handle it as an 18- or 19-year-old, which makes some of the standout performances I’ve seen this year all the more impressive. And somewhere out there, there’s a toddler putting a Nerf ball through the hoop of a Fisher Price basketball goal who will have me shaking my head even more when I’m 40.

Matt Heilman is a reporter for The Bel Aire Breeze. Reach him at [matt@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:matt@arkvalleynews.com).



CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
Contemporary guitar service with communion each Sunday at 8:30 a.m. Traditional service at 11 with communion each Sunday. Sunday school for all ages at 9:45 a.m. The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside, across from Heights High School). Find the church online at [www.christ-lutheran.org](http://www.christ-lutheran.org); e-mail [office@clc.kscoxmail.com](mailto:office@clc.kscoxmail.com). Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

**Church of the Resurrection**  
Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire. Masses for the Lord’s Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade. The parish/school website is

[www.resurrectionwichita.com](http://www.resurrectionwichita.com). Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. James F. Weldon is the pastor.

**Community Bible Chapel**  
The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire. Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays. Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m. For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

**Crossroads Friends Church**  
Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Pastor is Jeff Mullen. Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at [www.crossroadswichita.com](http://www.crossroadswichita.com).

**Fairmount United Church of Christ**  
The church welcomes a new minister, Rev. Larry Young. Visit the newly renovated building at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (one block south and one block east of Hillside and 17th North). Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. which includes Children’s Church. Sunday School begins at 9:30. For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at [www.fairmountucc.org](http://www.fairmountucc.org).

**Gospel Assembly Church**  
Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday. Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

**Greenwich United Methodist Church**  
Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee following the service. Pastor Natalie can be reached at 773-2300 or 744-0203. Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays. Visit the church online at [Greenwichsumc.org](http://Greenwichsumc.org). The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road.

**Kechi United Methodist Church**  
The church is located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi. The Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Phone number is 744-1221, website is [www.kechi-umc.org](http://www.kechi-umc.org) and e-mail address is [kechiuwc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kechiuwc@sbcglobal.net). Sunday worship and praise band is at 9:03 a.m., Sunday school is at 10 and worship is at 11. Wednesday evening worship services are from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. There

will be music, prayer time and a short sermon. Childcare is provided.

**Park City Church of the Nazarene**  
Sunday school for all ages is at 9:30 a.m. Worship and children’s church are at 10:45. Wednesday Bible study for adults begins with sandwiches and chips at 6:15 p.m. The church is located at 2100 E. 61st North in Park City.

**Pine Valley Christian Church**  
The church is located at 5620 E. 21st North. Sunday school is at 9 a.m. with worship at 10:15. For more information call 685-2421.

**Risen Savior Luthern Church — Missouri Synod**  
Contemporary Sunday worship services at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Communion on the first and third Sunday. Adult Sunday school and Bible class meet at 9:15 a.m. Children’s

Church at 10:30. A nursery is provided during Bible Class and second service. Wednesday evening ministries are from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday evening adult praise choir rehearsal is from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. The church is located at 6770 E. 34th North in Wichita. The phone number is 683-5538. The fax number is 683-5536. [www.risensavior.net](http://www.risensavior.net)

**University United Methodist Church**  
The church is located across from the Wichita State University campus at 21st and Yale. Sunday activities include adult and youth educational classes at 9:15 a.m., traditional service at 10:30 and youth group activities from 4 to 6 p.m. E-mail [uumc2220@uumc.net](mailto:uumc2220@uumc.net); phone 686-6765. Rev. Charles Claycomb is the pastor.

Send your church’s upcoming events and service times to [legals@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:legals@arkvalleynews.com) or call 755-0821.

Deadline for the April Breeze: Friday, March 23





# City of Bel Aire



Citizens interested in serving as volunteers for the City of Bel Aire, in any capacity, are strongly encouraged to

**contact City Manager Ty Lasher at (316) 744-2451 or [tlasher@belaireks.gov](mailto:tlasher@belaireks.gov)**

## Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov) • 744-2700  
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3  
For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

### SPRING BREAK SPORTS WEEK (ages 5-14)

Each day will feature a new sport to play such as baseball, flag football, soccer, basketball, or volleyball. Participants will meet March 19 – 22, times TBA. The registration deadline is March 12. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

### MAXIMIZE BOYS BASKETBALL CAMP (ages 6-11)

Bel Aire Recreation has partnered with Brent Atwater, a former collegiate player and coach, to bring you a Spring Break boy's basketball camp. Participants will meet March 19-22, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### BLASTBALL

Blastball is an introductory coed T-ball program for four year olds. The registration deadline is March 24. Program meets on Tuesday & Thursday evenings, April 17-May 10. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

### SHORT SPORTS

This instructional program for three year olds will teach basic sports skills including throwing, catching, kicking, and batting. The registration deadline is April 14. Program meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings April 24 – May 10. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

### RECREATIONAL SUMMER BALL LEAGUES

(boys ages 5-11 & girls ages 5-12) Teams will play up to two games per week on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday evening, or Saturdays beginning June 4. Registration deadline is April 21. A \$5 late fee will be charged to all sign-ups after the deadline.

### SUMMER DAY CAMP

The Wichita YMCA will again offer a state-licensed day camp this summer at the Bel Aire Recreation Center. Elementary age activities include arts & crafts, games, sports, swimming, field trips, and much more. For more information or to register call the YMCA at 264-1610.

### ZUMBA

Zumba is a Latin-inspired, dance-fitness class that incorporates Latin and international music and dance movements, creating a dynamic, exciting, exhilarating, and effective fitness system. Classes are held on Mondays & Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Teens & adults can join at any time!

### TAEKWONDO (ages 5 & up)

Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

### YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. Participants need to provide their own yoga mat. Adults can join at any time! Teens & adults can join at any time!

### FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass.

**For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.**

## We want to hear from you!

The Cities of Bel Aire and Kechi are currently involved in a process to evaluate potential opportunities for collaboration. Citizen input is vitally important to this process.

Please visit this link to take a survey regarding the opportunities for collaboration between Kechi and Bel Aire.

**Thank you!**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/KB-OpportunitiesSurvey>

## Deadline for April Bel Aire Breeze Friday, March 23

**Remain informed...remain engaged. Keep up with City news and events at [www.belaireks.gov](http://www.belaireks.gov), Bel Aire Channel 7, or follow us on Twitter (@BelAireKS).**

CITY OF BEL AIRE CONTACTS			
City Council		Central Park Pool	744-7331
Mayor Harold Smith	744-2650	Parks Department	744-8609
Dr. Gary Breault	744-0560	Police • Emergency	911
Peggy O'Donnell	744-0250	• Non-emergency	744-6000
Moe Terrebonne	744-2747	Animal Control (Sedgwick County)	660-7070
David Austin	744-7188	Public Works	744-2888
Dave Sly	204-5574	Water/Sewer Emergency (after 5 p.m.)	761-6972 or 761-6973
City Hall		Utility Billing	744-2451, ext. 132
Ty Lasher, City Manager	744-2451, ext. 217	Trash (Waste Connections)	838-4920
Recreation Department	744-2700	Hazardous Waste (Sedgwick County)	660-7464

## Bel Aire Senior Center

*All SENIORS 55+ are cordially invited to all events listed below. The Senior Center and Library area is open from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday excluding holidays. The library has a wide selection of library books to check out at no cost nor time restraints, along with computers available for study or research. Remember any senior can belong or attend to more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County.*

**Locations:**  
Senior Center/Community Room – 7651 E. Central Park Ave., 744-2451 ext. 121  
Recreation Center – 5251 E. 48th St. N., 744-2700

**Weekly Events:**  
**Bel Aire Walkers** – M-F, 8-9 a.m. at the Rec Center (indoors & climate controlled)  
**Men's Coffee & Fellowship** – Mondays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center  
**Yoga** – Mondays & Wednesdays, 6 p.m. at the Rec Center  
**TOPS** – Tuesdays, 9 a.m. at the Senior Center  
**Bridge Games** – Tuesdays, 1 p.m. at the Senior Center  
**Low Impact Aerobics** – Wednesdays, 9 a.m. at the Rec Center  
**"Get-to-Know-Coffee"** – Fridays, 10 a.m. at the Senior Center  
**Braums Breakfast** – Fridays, 9:00 a.m. on North Rock Road

**FYI: For any possible cancellations due to inclement winter weather conditions, contact the Senior Center at 744-2451 Ext. 121 or 744-2700.**

*New Senior Participation Forms with Emergency Contact and other information will be needed from each Senior for 2012. Please complete a new form and return to the Senior Director offices.*

## Bel Aire Senior Club

*Activities are held at 4551 N. Auburn unless otherwise noted. Those 55-plus are welcome to participate. For information on programs and services for seniors, contact Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, at 744-1199. The club is self-governed and activities benefit all participating seniors.*

**Free Line Dance lessons Wednesday 2:30 PM Park City Senior Center**  
**Square Dance Lessons and Dancing 6:30 PM every Thursday (except 3rd Thursday of the month) Park City Senior Center**  
**Dances—Saturdays 1st, 2nd, 3rd,& 5th Saturday of each month At Park City Senior Center.**  
Call Vicki at 744-1199 for details

**Tuesday 6, 8:30 AM — Copper Oven**  
**Monday, March 12, 10:00 — Board Meeting**  
**11:30 Lunch at Jerseys** located at 3123 N. Toben St. (K-96 and Webb Road across from Menard's)  
**Wednesday March 23, 10:00 AM — Men's Coffee at Braums**  
**Wednesday March 21, 2:00 PM — Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braums**  
**Monday March 26, 6:00 PM — Covered Dish Dinner**  
**Program:** Jenn Bates Channel 12 Sports Reporter

**Free Tax Assistance with AARP is available at the Park City Senior Center — To make an appointment call Vicki at 744-1199**

**For information on senior activities or resources contact Tri-City Senior Director Vicki Shepard at 744-1199**

**March 2nd, 10:00 a.m.** – Eldercare Presentation – Stacia Foley Reed at the Senior Center  
**March 5th, 6:30 p.m.** – Potluck & Motivational Speaker Edward Young – Community Room  
**March 7th, 10 a.m.** – Volunteer library work time at the Senior Center  
**March 10th** – Red Hat's meeting, for info call Anita at 744-2840  
**March 13th, 9:30 a.m.** – TOPS, Life Changing Challenges presentation at the Senior Center  
**March 13th, 11:30 a.m.** – Advisory Board Meeting at the Rec Center  
**March 18th, 3 p.m.** – Health Meeting located at the Senior Center  
**March 18th** – Central Park HOA meeting at the Senior Center  
**March 21st, 10:15 a.m.** – Senior Aerobics Brunch at the Cracker Barrel  
**March 23rd, 10 a.m.** - Staying Safe at Home Presentation – Amy Maxton & Sg. Co. Deputy Brandon Dubose at the Senior Center  
**March 28th , 10:30 a.m.** – Open Sewing at the Senior Center  
**March 28th, 7 p.m.** – Bunko games at the Senior Center  
**March 26th, 7 p.m.** – Tree Board Meeting at the Senior Center  
**March 30th , 7:00 p.m.** – Pitch Night at the Senior Center



# POLICE REPORTS

**Feb. 19** — Officer Agon responded to an accident at 6001 E. Perryton. A person had an unknown medical issue that caused him to strike a parked vehicle.

**Feb. 19** — Officer Swanson responded to the request to check the welfare of a juvenile believed to be in the 4800 block of East 44th Court North. Officer found the residence empty with no lights on.

**Feb. 18** — Officer McCaslin observed a deceased deer in the ditch at 6000 E. 53rd North. Officer found no reports of a deer vs. vehicle accident. A person was contacted to remove the deer.

**Feb. 18** — Officer McCaslin responded to the report of suspicious characters in a vehicle at 4565 N. Hillcrest. Prior to arrival, the calling party reported that the vehicle left the area. The officer searched the area and did not locate the vehicle.

**Feb. 18** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 3700 N. Oliver. Robert P. Saylor was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Feb. 18** — Officer Steele checked a builder at 5200 N. Woodlawn.

**Feb. 16** — Officer McCaslin responded to an accident at 3800 N. Oliver. One driver was issued citations.

**Feb. 16** — Lt. Griggs responded to an audible alarm at 4339 N. Gun-nison. The residence was secure.

**Feb. 16** — Officer Agon responded to the report of possible domestic violence. Officer contacted a person at Galichia Emergency Room. The person stated that her boyfriend accidentally hit her with his forearm on the nose while she was sleeping. No injuries were visible to the officer.

**Feb. 16** — Officer Agon found three trailers with padlocks open at 5550 N. Lycee. Nothing appeared to be missing. Officer secured the locks.

**Feb. 16** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5900 E. 41st North. Tiffany P. Pham was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Feb. 16** — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a suspicious character in the area of 5550 N. Lycee. Of-ficer checked the area and found two doors propped open. The building was checked and there did not ap-pear to be any suspicious activity.

**Feb. 15** — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS at 4747 N. Webb.

**Feb. 15** — Lt. Griggs responded to a holdup alarm at 6700 E. 45th North. The alarm was malfunctioning due to building construction.

**Feb. 15** — Lt. Griggs assisted Kan-sas Bureau of Investigations at 4359 N. Rushwood and 4720 N. Oliver.

**Feb. 15** — Officer Swanson ar-rested Charles D. Lene on a Bel Aire warrant at 6100 N. Broadway in Park

City.

**Feb. 14** — Lt. Griggs assisted a citizen at 4463 N. Edgemoor Court.

**Feb. 13** — Officer McCaslin re-sponded to an accident at 6300 E. Quail Ridge. A person was issued a citation.

**Feb. 13** — Officer McCaslin as-sisted Sedgwick County EMS at 5000 N. Greenwich.

**Feb. 13** — Officer Steele respond-ed to the report of a burglary at 5200 N. Woodlawn. A person entered a se-cured trailer and removed property.

**Feb. 12** — Officer Agon respond-ed to the report of a runaway in the 4200 block of North Fritillary Court. When officer arrived, the juvenile had already returned home.

**Feb. 11** — Officer Hutton re-sponded to an audible alarm at 4648 N. Krueger. Officers checked the re-sidence and found no signs of criminal activity.

**Feb. 11** — Officer Hutton assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 6700 E. 45th North with a fire alarm. The alarm was false.

**Feb. 11** — Officer Steele checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Feb. 10** — Officer McCaslin assist-ed Sedgwick County Fire Department at 6680 E. 44th North.

**Feb. 10** — Officer McCaslin spoke with a person at the station who was concerned about a person she pre-viously worked for.

**Feb. 10** — Officer McCaslin as-sisted Sedgwick County EMS at 4900 N. Woodlawn.

**Feb. 10** — Officer Hutton assisted EMS at 6680 E. 44th Court North.

**Feb. 10** — Officer Hutton was contacted by a Wichita Police Depart-ment detective about a vehicle stolen Feb. 8. Officer checked a location that matched the information given by the detective. A stolen Toyota Camry was located. Wichita police processed the scene.

**Feb. 10** — Officer Steele checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Feb. 10** — Officer Steele checked a construction site at 5500 N. Lycee.

**Feb. 9** — Officer McCaslin assisted Sedgwick County EMS at 5610 E. 48th Circle North.

**Feb. 9** — Officer McCaslin assisted Sedgwick County EMS at 4251 N. Woodlawn.

**Feb. 9** — Officer Steele checked a business with lights on after hours at 5500 E. 45th North. Officer contacted a person who was cleaning floors.

**Feb. 9** — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a suspicious character at 14717 E. 77th North.

**Feb. 9** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5900 E. 37th North. A person was issued citations.

**Feb. 9** — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police at 7320 E. Mill Stream.

## Man arrested in theft from church

By Matt Heilman

A priest foiled an attempted theft after morning services Feb. 5 at the Church of the Resurrection at 4900 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire, police said. Bel Aire Police Chief John Daily said the church was empty when a suspect went into the church and attempted to break into a donation box near the front of the building.

Daily said a priest heard the suspect and “went out and confronted him.”

The suspect walked out of the church, got in his car and drove off, Daily said.

The priest called 911. Park City police apprehended the sus-pect shortly after the priest provided a description of the suspect and vehicle to Bel Aire officers.

The suspect was turned over to Bel Aire police and booked into the Sedgwick County Jail, Daily said.

**Feb. 8** — Lt. Griggs responded to an alarm at 4559 N. Woodlawn. A de-livery driver activated the alarm.

**Feb. 8** — Lt. Griggs responded to the report of larceny at 6018 E. 41st North. A wallet was taken. The per-son later phoned to say she found the wallet.

**Feb. 8** — Officer Agon responded to an accident at 4900 N. Greenwich. A vehicle swerved to miss a deer and ran off the road and hit a fence.

**Feb. 7** — Officer Foxx located a wallet at 7651 E. Central Park Ave. The wallet was submitted to property and evidence.

**Feb. 7** — Officer Agon checked a construction site at 5550 N. Lycee.

**Feb. 7** — Officer Foxx assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 6680 E. 44th Court.

**Feb. 6** — Officer McCaslin assisted Sedgwick County Fire Department at 6680 E. 44th Court.

**Feb. 6** — Officer Hutton checked a construction site at 5550 N. Lycee.

**Feb. 6** — Officer Toomey checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Feb. 5** — Officer McCaslin re-sponded to the report of larceny at 4910 N. Woodlawn. An employee found a male leaving the area with a collection box. Park City Officers stopped the car.

**Feb. 5** — Officer Agon responded to a disturbance at 5936 Danbury Street. It was a civil matter.

**Feb. 4** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5300 N. Greenwich after the driver failed to slow down and almost hit officers at an accident scene. Evan A. Hearn was arrested on a charge of DUI.

**Feb. 4** — Officer Foxx assisted a citizen at 6111 E. Danbury.

**Feb. 3** — Officer Hutton respond-ed to the report of a burglary at 4826 E. Willowpoint Ct. A window was bro-ken and property was missing.

**Feb. 2** — Officer Agon assisted Wichita police at 522 E. 21st North in Wichita.

**Feb. 2** — Officer Foxx assisted Wichita police and several agencies in a search for a burglary suspect. The suspect was found driving in a field at 7500 N. Webb.

**Feb. 1** — Lt. Griggs assisted EMS at 4542 N. Westlake.

**Feb. 1** — Officer Agon responded to the report of larceny at 5110 N. Yorkshire. A package was removed from the porch.

**Feb. 1** — Officer Agon checked a construction site at 5256 N. Woodlawn.

**Jan. 31** — Officer Hutton checked on a business at 5550 N. Lycee.

**Jan. 31** — Officer Foxx responded to the report of a burglary at 5550 N. Lycee. Locks were cut off of trailers, a storage unit and two boxes. Property was taken.

**Jan. 30** — Officer McCaslin was contacted by a person at the station who transferred money to a person in Bel Aire and did not received the property he purchased. Officers at-tempted to contact the person at a Bel Aire residence and was told he moved to Wichita July 29, 2011. Offi-cers contacted the victim and referred him to Wichita police.

**Jan. 30** — Officer Swanson re-sponded to the report of vandalism at 5545 E. Falcon. Someone threw eggs at a mailbox and damaged the mail-box and the mail.

**Jan. 30** — Officer Swanson spoke with Catholic Care Center about a

situation that occurred with a patient while she was visiting a relative in Wichita. Wichita Police Department did a report on the incident.

**Jan. 30** — Officer Hutton checked a construction site at 5256 N. Woodlawn.

**Jan. 30** — Officer Steele discov-ered an open gate at 6210 E. 37th North and checked the business. No suspicious activity was found. Officer secured the gate. Officer also noticed that fireworks had been discharged to the northwest of the business. Offi-cer did not establish the origin of the fireworks.

**Jan. 30** — Officer Toomey checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Jan. 29** — Officer Steele checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Jan. 29** — Officer Steele discov-ered a sign post missing a stop sign at 10700 E. 45th North.

**Jan. 28** — Officer Medlin respond-ed to the report of a suspicious char-acter trying to sell AT&T TV systems at 4430 N. Stratford Lane. Officer did not locate the suspect.

**Jan. 28** — Officer Hutton respond-ed to the request for extra patrols in the 4200 block of North Danbury.

**Jan. 28** — Officer Steele checked a business at 5500 E. 45th North.

**Jan. 28** — Officer Steele con-ducted a traffic stop at 4800 E. 37th North. Officer issued citations.

**Jan. 28** — Officer Agon respond-ed to the report of larceny at 3820 N. Cozy. Two suspects entered the yard and attempted to take a scooter. Officer checked the area and did not locate the suspects.

**Jan. 25** — Lt. Griggs responded to the report of a burglary at 5550 N. Lycee. Someone cut locks off of trail-ers and removed property.

**Jan. 25** — Officer Medlin was con-tacted by a person who located a dog at-large at 6652 E. St. James Place. Officer was unable to contact the owner and the dog was transported to the humane society.

**Jan. 25** — Officer Foxx found a plastic child seat in the ditch at 5100 E. 45th North.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5000 N. Greenwich. The tag on the vehicle was not as-signed to the vehicle it was on. The driver was issued citations and the tag was seized and turned over to property and evidence.

**Jan. 23** — Officer McCaslin assist-ed Sedgwick County Fire Department at 4331 N. Strafford.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Hutton took a message that Sedgwick County Sher-iff’s Office arrested Julian McKesson on a Bel Aire warrant. A court date was given.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Hutton assisted EMS at 4743 N. Krueger.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Hutton re-sponded to an audible alarm at 6300 E. 37th North. There were no signs of criminal activity and the building was secure.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Hutton took a message that Margarita Aguirre was arrested by Wichita police on a Bel Aire warrant Jan. 23. She was given a court date.

**Jan. 24** — Officer Hutton respond-ed to the report by e-mail of barking dogs at 4355 N. Rushwood Court. Officer contacted the dog owner and told her to keep the dogs controlled.

**Jan. 22** — Officer McCaslin re-sponded to the request to check the welfare of a juvenile in the 4500 block of North Glendale. Officers contacted the juvenile and the juvenile’s father.

**Jan. 21** — Officer McCaslin re-sponded to the report of vandalism at 4071 N. Harding. An unknown ve-hicle drove off of the street, crossed a driveway and knocked off railroad ties. No permanent damage occurred.

**Jan. 21** — Officer Hutton respond-ed to an audible alarm at 5910 E. 37th North. A key holder arrived. Of-ficer checked the building and found no signs of criminal activity.

**Jan. 21** — Officer Foxx responded to the request to check the welfare of a person at 5907 E. Perryton. Officer contacted the person.

**Jan. 21** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 4400 N. Woodlawn. Officer issued citations.

**Jan. 20** — Officer McCaslin was contacted at the police department by a person who reported being involved in a non-injury accident in the 5500 block of East 45th North. There were no injuries and the drivers exchanged information at the scene.

**Jan. 20** — Officer Medlin respond-ed to the report of larceny at 6700 E. 45th North. Medication was missing.

**Jan. 20** — Officer Hutton found a trash dump at 10200 E. 53rd North. City Works was notified.

**Jan. 20** — Officer Hutton re-sponded to an audible alarm at 3835 N. Hillcrest No. 1. An employee set off the alarm by accident.

**Jan. 20** — Officer Foxx conducted a traffic stop at 5800 N. Woodlawn. The person was speeding to the hos-pital due to her patient having an anxiety attack and having trouble breathing. The person was transport-ed to Galichia Hospital.

**Jan. 20** — Officer Steele found an illuminated dome light in an excavator at a construction site at 8300 E. 53rd North. The cab door on the excavator was secured. No signs of suspicious activity were found.

## Schools

Continued from Page 1

out that about 80 percent of the budget pays for personnel. On Jan. 30, Allison said the district also had to cut about 400 positions.

The overcrowding con-cerns at Heights, although not resolved as the 2008 bond issue intended, will be some-what relieved with the final “supposal” and with several students attending special programs at Northeast Magnet or Wichita East, Rogers said.

At the elementary level, Bel Aire public school stu-dents in kindergarten through fifth grade will attend the new K-8 building, along with stu-dents from Isley Traditional Magnet Elementary, where several students in Bel Aire already attend.

Kechi public school el-ementary students are pro-posed to remain at Park City’s

Chisholm Trail Elementary next year. City leaders had requested that Kechi students have the option to attend Bel Aire’s new schools, but a few parents said they are just glad that an initial proposal that called for busing Kechi students nearly 10 miles to Wichita’s Spaght Elementary seems to be taken out of con-sideration.

Kechi parent Jennifer Som-mers said her elementary-aged son prefers Chisholm Trail because he competes in sports in Park City and has friends there. After the first proposal called for a shift to Spaght, she helped organize a petition against the idea.

“I’m happy with the elementary part,” she said of the latest boundary map. “I’m glad my child is not going to school 10 miles away and will be going to a neighborhood school.”

On Jan. 28, Bel Aire resi-dents agreed to form an online

petition to continue pushing what they’d like to see in their city. The petition requested that the district phase the K-5 into the intended K-8 over the next few years and allow the new high school to eventu-ally open as a traditional high school that can continue to host the Northeast Magnet program.

The idea is similar to what’s in place at Wichita East where a traditional high school also includes the International Baccalaureate program, which includes ac-celerated students from across the district.

Residents said the peti-tion should include more than just Bel Aire and agreed to reach out to those affected by the boundary shifts in Ke-chi, Park City and northeast Wichita.

The Bel Aire council also prepared a letter that was sent

to Allison and every Wichita school board member after a January workshop.

Kechi also did its part. Mayor Bob Jackson, a former teacher in the Wichita district, sent letters expressing the will of his city to Allison and board members. Kechi wants to give students an option to either attend Bel Aire’s new schools or to stay where they are. Jackson said he planned to attend the Feb. 27 meeting to observe the board’s discus-sion, but he wasn’t likely to speak since he already had a chance to be heard.

Looking at the overall issue with redrawing school boundaries, Bel Aire council member Gary Breault said he didn’t blame the board for the challenges that were brought on by funding cuts from the state.

“I think the real attack should be on the state to get

that funding back,” he said.

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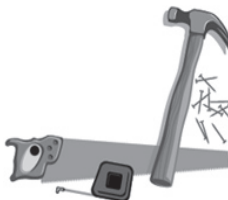
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# Questions remain in ‘Castro’ case

By Matt Heilman

The preliminary hearing for the man accused of a 2003 murder in rural Valley Center has been postponed until March 8. The hearing, initially scheduled for Feb. 2, was postponed at the request of Daniel U. Perez’s attorney.

In January, Perez was charged on 39 counts, including sex crimes against children, providing false information to apply for auto credit and collection on life insurance, aggravated assault involving a rifle, making criminal threats and first-degree murder.

Perez, who used to live north of Valley Center in the 9500 block of North Oliver under the alias of Lou Castro, was arrested last month in connection with the June 2003 death of Patricia Hughes at 9550 N. Oliver. He also was arrested on a charge of sexual exploitation of a child, an incident that allegedly happened in September 2006.

When Hughes died, she was a neighbor to Perez in the 9500 block of North Oliver,

living in a small cluster of houses neighbors have described as “a compound.”

Initially, Hughes’ drowning death in a pool at was ruled an accident.

It’s unclear what new evidence has come to light to reopen the case as a homicide.

Sedgwick County sheriff’s Capt. Greg Pollock, whose agency is leading the investigation into Hughes’ death, said he wouldn’t be able to discuss details about the investigation until Perez stood trial.

The March 8 preliminary hearing will present witnesses who will help the court determine whether there is enough evidence for Perez to go to trial. Included with the criminal complaint against Perez is a state witness list of 77 names.

It’s unclear who on the list will be called on to testify during the preliminary hearing.

Complicating the case further is that Patricia Hughes wasn’t the only one connected to Perez to die under strange circumstances. Court documents show there have been about a dozen deaths involving a group led by Perez, who



Perez

husband Brian Hughes and the 2008 death of Jennifer Hutson, who had become the legal guardian of the Hughes’ daughter and also was living in “the compound” north of Valley Center.

Brian Hughes was killed near Rapid City, S.D., while visiting relatives. He was changing oil in a vehicle when the jack slipped and the vehicle fell on him.

Hutson was killed while driving in Butler County. Her vehicle crossed into oncoming traffic and collided with a gravel truck. Both deaths were ruled accidents and the cases haven’t been reopened.

Part of the mystery can be traced to a 2001 South Dakota plane crash, which killed a friend of Perez and Patricia Hughes, Mona Griffith. Patricia Hughes collected life insurance money from Griffith, whose boyfriend and daughter also were killed in the crash.

Aided by life insurance money, Perez seemed to live a rock star lifestyle in rural Valley Center. He drove expensive cars and hosted parties at “the compound,” which was known as “Angels Landing.”

All the while the man everyone knew as Lou Castro was a fugitive, who had been charged with sex crimes against children in Bee County, Texas, in the 1990s. To escape prison time, Perez somehow managed to convince Texas authorities that he had died before he fled.

In rural Valley Center, Perez befriended cops in a local police department.

Three months after Hughes’ June 2003 death, Lou Castro showed up at a Kechi City Council meeting. As a representative of Hughes’ estate, who felt a part of Kechi even though he didn’t live there, Perez presented a monetary donation to the Kechi Police Department for it to purchase a Chevy Tahoe.

“We looked at several different things that we could do to benefit the community,” Perez said when he presented the donation. “We want you to try and get a more suitable vehicle to get where you need to go.”

He attended the meeting with former Kechi police chief Michael Morland, who left the city in 2005 after his contract

wasn’t renewed. Morland is now the police chief in the small Barber County town of Kiowa, about 117 miles southwest of Kechi.

Morland was unavailable to comment on how he came to know Perez.

The rapport Perez built with the Kechi Police Department continued after Morland left. In 2008, he donated money to help the department purchase a police dog for its now defunct K-9 unit, according to a former officer.

In his time as Kechi’s chief from May 2005 to April 2010, Jason Doll said he didn’t personally know the man called Lou, but he had a couple of officers who knew him and visited him off duty.

“To my knowledge, that was the extent of it,” Doll said.

But according to another former Kechi officer, who asked to remain anonymous, Perez’s relationship with off-duty officers ran deeper than casual visits.

The former officer said a co-worker used to go on gambling trips with Perez, and a couple of fellow officers would work security at some of the parties in the 9500 block of North Oliver.

“I’m pretty sure they got paid for that,” the former officer said.

The former officer said Per-

ez also paid one of Kechi’s reserves a few hundred dollars to help him move to Tennessee in 2009 or early 2010.

The former officer said he remembers asking the reserve if he thought the offer “was a little weird.”

“He’s like, “Well, I don’t care. It’s money,” the former officer said.

The former officer said he remembers Lou Castro driving through Kechi numerous times and found his attempts to make friends with its cops “weird,” especially because he didn’t live within the city’s corporate limits.

Although “weird,” the former officer said it made sense for Perez to “target a small town” and to make friends there.

“I think that’s how he kind of got some of the people to let their guard down,” he said. “There was the donating to the police department. No one ever thought twice. It was weird to me that he was overly friendly and wanted to make friends with the cops. That’s really how I felt about it.”

Now, behind bars in Sedgwick County, Perez, by all accounts, has run out of money. He’s in custody on \$2.1 million bond and requested a court-appointed attorney when he made his first court appearance on Jan. 19.

## DEATHS

### DORIS MCCLENDON

Doris Lynette McClendon, 51, of Towanda, died Feb. 1, 2012.

Survivors include her parents, James and Ann Burton of Bel Aire; son, Brian Wise; and daughter, Windy McClendon, both of Towanda; brothers and sister-in-law, Allen and Susan Wise of Derby, Glen Wise, of El Dorado; nieces, Lindsay Thomas (Kevin), and Sara Wise; and a nephew, Clay Wise.

Visitation was Feb. 6 at Smith Mortuary. Graveside service was Feb. 7 at Rose Hill Cemetery.

### WILMA JONES

Wilma Jean Jones, 76, of Park City, died Feb. 11, 2012, in Park City.

She was born the daughter of Thomas B. Clark and Edith Clark (Ball) on Monday, July 8, 1935, in Mound City. On April 19, 1956, Wilma and Charles D. Jones were united in marriage in Iola. Together they celebrated over 55 years of marriage.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Melvin Clark and his wife Myrtle; and a grandson, Robert Charles Dameron.

Survivors include her husband, Charles of the home; sons and daughters-in-law, Larry and Ann Jones of Peabody, Ken and Michele Jones of Portage, Ind., Steve and Sherry Jones of Valley Center; daughters and sons-in-law, Vicki and Steve Weathers of Bel Aire, Brenda Scott of Mulvane, Kim and Tony Baldwin of Wichita; sisters and brothers-in-law, Marguerite and Richard Adams of Kincaid, Mary Ellen and Stan Bayless of Wichita; 18 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

There was no visitation as cremation has taken place. Memorial service was Feb.



Jones

Cancer Society, 330 S. Main St. #100, Wichita, KS 67202. Contributions can be mailed or left with the funeral home.

Cornerstone of Wichita has charge.

### WILLIAM PEPPARD III

William “Bill” Peppard III, 69, died Feb. 19, 2012.

He was born Nov. 21, 1942, in Wichita. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked 39 years in sales at Printing, Inc.

He was preceded in death by his father, William Peppard, Jr.; and his brother, Dr. Dick Peppard.

Survivors include sister-in-law, Barbara Simons of Bel Aire; mother, Guettis Peppard; wife of 36 years, Pam; daughter, Rebecca of Shawnee; son, William of Cincinnati, Ohio; sister and brother-in-law, Patty and Mike Ciccolella of Ft. Worth; brother, Tim of Cheney; sisters-in-law, Pat Peppard of Wichita, Marilyn (Tracy) Winter of Wichita; and several nieces and nephews.

Rosary was Feb. 22 at Broadway Mortuary Chapel. Memorial Mass was Feb. 23 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Andover.

A memorial has been established with Ohio Midwestern College in Cincinnati.

Broadway Mortuary has charge.

18 at the Metropolitan Baptist Church, 525 West Douglas, Wichita, KS 67213.

Memorials have been established with the American

# Theme park buildings find new home in west Wichita

By Matt Heilman

In November of 2010, almost everything on the Wild West World property was sold at a public auction. Thirty-one buildings, trees, fencing and the big digital cowboy sign were sold to the highest bidders at the Sleep Inn and Suites near 77th North and I-135.

Some of the property was sold to auction participants gathered at the Sleep Inn. Online bidders also took part in the auction and bought much of the property, including the cowboy sign.

Now, a few buildings and tall weeds are all that remain at the Wild West World property. What remains includes the Johnny Western Theater, which exceeds 20,000 square feet and was considered the “crown jewel” of the November 2010 auction.

The theater sold for \$40,000 at the auction, about \$260,000 less than what it cost to build.

It’s unclear what happened after the auction and why the theater hasn’t been torn down and moved off the Wild West World property.

Also at the auction, businessman and Hartman Arena owner Wink Hartman bought two sections of the park’s



Matt Heilman

Former Wild West World buildings are part of a strip mall in west Wichita.

Main Street and the 910-foot Texas Jack’s pizza building.

The whereabouts of much of the property has remained a mystery, but a few Main Street buildings that used to be near the entrance of Wild West World were spotted just north of Wichita near Kellogg and Tyler.

George Holland, owner

of Holland Paving, said he’s planning to develop a couple of retail centers at the site, but he didn’t go into much detail beyond that and didn’t want to discuss where the buildings came from.

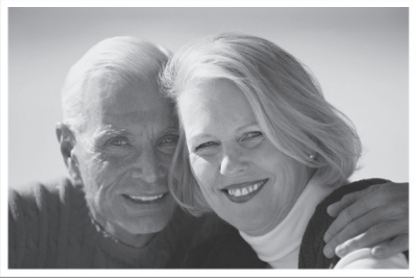
Wild West World is owned by a Florida Investment Group called Arthur Gordon LLC. After the auction 15 months

ago, auctioneer Eric Malone, owner of Wichita’s Malone and Associates, announced that the park owners planned to tear out concrete and level the site for a future project.

Currently there is no indication that any new projects have commenced on the former Wild West World property.

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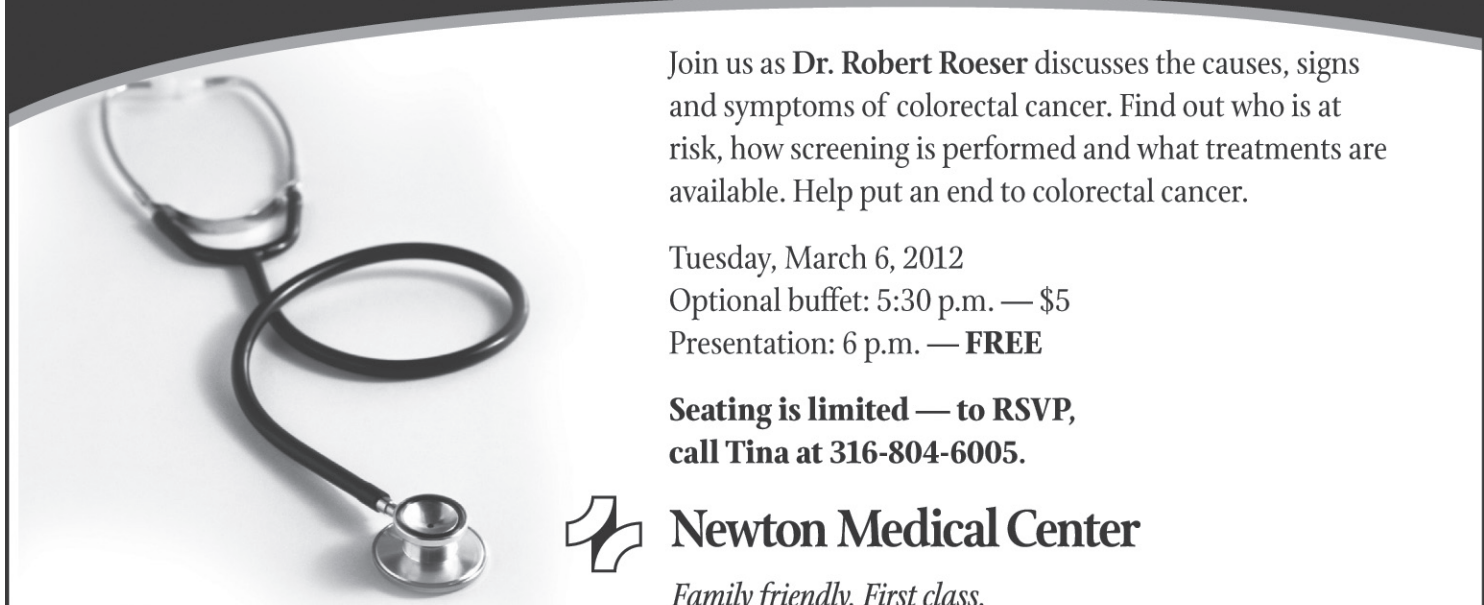
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# Cities take advantage of marketing opportunity at home show

By Matt Heilman

Taking advantage of a marketing opportunity to a wide audience, the cities of Park City, Bel Aire and Kechi set up booths at the 2012 Wichita Home Show Feb. 9 through 12 at Century II. Every year, the home show draws thousands of people to check out trendy home décor and remodeling ideas, as well as to get information on new housing additions and what advantages some developments have over others.

Although interest from the home show might not directly result in new home sales,

volunteers at the booths say the opportunity to introduce non-residents to what their cities have to offer is worth the slight expense. Besides reserving space and preparing materials to distribute, the cities chipped in with door prizes.

Park City used the home show to introduce its newly produced five-minute promotional video that accompanied the distribution of information on housing developments. Park City Mayor Emil Bergquist said the video “accentuates some of the features of the city,” including local businesses and

the presence of the Wichita Wings and Wichita Wild at Hartman Arena.

The video played on a loop during all four days of the home show, Bergquist said. The mayor said traffic at the home show seemed lighter than last year, but visitors expressed interest in available homes in the city and complimented Park City on Hartman Arena and overall progress made in the last 10 to 15 years.

“The traffic count was down, but we made some positive contacts,” Bergquist said.

For Bel Aire, several visi-

tors to the city’s booth were armed with questions about its new schools, City Manager Ty Lasher said.

Currently, Bel Aire’s new high school is proposed to open as the new home for Wichita’s Northeast Magnet High School and the K-8 school is proposed to serve Bel Aire students in kindergarten through fifth grade as well as students from Isley Traditional Magnet Elementary. While the schools aren’t opening to capacity like Bel Aire residents had hoped, Lasher said the plans didn’t seem to deter the interest in available homes in the city.

He said a few visitors discussed plans to move to a Wichita suburb and sought information on new homebuyer incentives, which include utility breaks in Bel Aire.

“We think (participating in the home show) is worth it because it gets our name out there,” Lasher said.

In Kechi, the city’s booth stuck out with a large mural of the city’s park on the wall behind a table and chairs. Chamber of commerce president Janet Faust said visitors were also drawn to the city’s door prizes, which included a glass piece from Karg Art Glass.

Faust said volunteers

handed out more than 200 chamber of commerce directories, which lists every business in Kechi.

“I think it went really well,” she said.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Benedictine College has recognized students who have distinguished themselves academically during the last semester. Melissa Davied of Bel Aire was named to the President’s List for the fall semester. To achieve the President’s List, students must carry a minimum of 12 credit hours and have a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

Southwestern College December 2011 graduates have been announced with nearly 200 students eligible to participate in Commencement exercises in Winfield May 6. Area graduates include Kara Lefto, Wichita, bachelor of arts in science in computer operations technology; and Jeff McCrory, Wichita, bachelor of arts or of science in computer operations technology.

The following students have been named to the fall 2011 Pittsburg State University honor roll: Hannah Hunsinger and Amanda Orloske of Bel Aire.

Local Fort Hays State University students who completed requirements for associate and bachelor’s degrees in the fall 2011 semester include, from Wichita: Adelai Basye, bachelor of business administration in accounting; Sheldon Bina, bachelor of general studies.

Students who completed requirements for graduate degrees include, from Bel Aire: Amanda Young, master of science in education (transition to teaching); From Wichita: Olakunle Adisa, master of business administration in business administration; Sergio Carr, master of science in psychology (school); Jodi Schmitz, master of science in instructional technology.

# Sunrise student selected to play with Friends

By Matt Heilman

Casey Lindsted, described by his father as a “musical guy,” has taken piano lessons consistently for about five years. The Sunrise Christian Academy junior admits he quit taking lessons for a few years after starting in elementary school, but has dedicated himself to sharpening his musical talent on the piano since the seventh grade and was recently recognized for his skills.

At Sunrise, the versatile musician plays the keyboard in the pep band and has played the double bass in the Wichita Youth Symphony for about four years, but a recent accomplishment will give him the chance to play the piano in front of the largest crowd he’s ever performed for.

Lindsted won the high school division of an annual competition in Wichita by outperforming three finalists on the third movement of the Gershwin Concerto. He was selected the winner by a

panel of judges.

The three finalists were narrowed down from a field of eight high school pianists selected by the Wichita Area Piano Teachers League to vie for the chance to perform live with an orchestra.

At a Feb. 21 concert at Friends University’s Sebitts Auditorium, Lindsted was the lead piano soloist for the Friends University Orchestra during the group’s performance of the Gershwin Concerto.

The 17-year-old said music will always be “a big part” of his life, but he is likely to pursue a different career path after he graduates from Sunrise next year. Lindsted is a 4.0 student at Sunrise where he’s also a member of the National Honor Society.

“I believe that any gift, no matter how big or how small comes from God,” he said.

Lindsted is the oldest of six children of Kyle and Anita Lindsted of Bel Aire.

Kyle Lindsted is the athletic director and boys’ basketball coach at Sunrise.



Casey Lindsted, a junior at Sunrise Christian Academy, performs at a concert. Lindsted won the high school division of a piano competition.

Courtesy photo

## Park

Continued from Page 1

look at trending industries to try to determine the best fits to build in the park. While Wichita is holding onto its identity with manufacturing, Lackey said the biggest growth trends are in professional and business services, especially the health care industry.

Looking ahead, he discussed opportunities with composites to aid the medical field as a potential industry that one day could find a home in the industrial park.

“The medical industry has really developed along the Webb (Road) corridor,” Lackey said.

He said businesses, such as call centers and education centers, are also projected to grow over the next 10 years, but it’s too early to determine specifically what should be

built in the industrial park.

The land may also be a good fit for retail space, Lackey said.

Besides identifying what will be developed in the park, a crucial element to the marketing plan is giving it a name. Best presented three ideas to the council on Feb. 21: The Southern Plains Commerce Park, the Crossroads Commerce Park and the Sunflower Commerce Park. He said the term “commerce park” instead of “industrial

park” more accurately reflects the land’s potential for “just about anything,” not necessarily limited to industrial use.

Lackey and Best said they’d return to the council as many times as needed until the city finalizes its marketing

strategy and draws interested developers to the industrial park. They also said they’d like to have a couple of open houses scheduled at City Hall to allow residents to learn more about what’s available with the industrial park and to weigh in on what they’d like

to see on the property.

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